

Size: 3,216 acres
Mission: Housed the 67th Reconnaissance Wing, 12th Air Force Headquarters, 12th Tactical Intelligence Squadron, 712th Air Support Operations Center, 10th Air Force Reserve, and 924th Fighter Group
HRS Score: NA
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: VOCs, pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and low-level radioactive waste
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: \$45.7 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): \$9.5 million (FY1999)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY1999



Austin, Texas

Restoration Background

Bergstrom Air Force Base began operations in 1942, maintaining troop carrier units. In July 1991, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of the installation and retirement of the assigned RF-4 aircraft. The installation closed in late FY93, and the land reuse authority began to convert the installation to a civilian airport.

Environmental studies since FY83 have identified 30 CERCLA and 451 RCRA sites. Site types include underground storage tanks (USTs), landfills, fuel spill areas, a pesticide evaporation pit, firing ranges, a sludge weathering pit, aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), a fire training area, and a radioactive waste disposal area. Interim Remedial Actions include removal of 106 USTs, removal of contaminated soil and low-level radioactive wastes, and closure of 45 ASTs.

An Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) was completed in FY93 and updated in FY95. Remedial Actions (RAs) included removal of remaining ASTs, USTs, and oil-water separators. Use of soil vapor extraction and air sparging systems accelerated cleanup of groundwater plumes at a group of sites.

A BRAC cleanup team (BCT) and a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) were formed in FY94. In addition, the Air Force Base Conversion Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding governing site management and characterization with the state regulatory agency, EPA, and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

In FY95, the installation established a partnership with the City of Austin and other stakeholders to accelerate restoration and redevelop the property.

In FY96, RAB meetings were held to address a trichloroethene (TCE) plume that was migrating off base.

In FY97, the installation completed 37 Removal Actions; cleanup of Installation Restoration Program Sites SS-08, SS-10, and SD17; and the latest EBS. The installation also completed the air injection sparging and soil venting project. Actions for several sites under investigation were agreed on by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), EPA, and the Air Force. Long-term monitoring (LTM) began. The RAB was disbanded by the community in FY97 because of the successful remediation efforts at the installation.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed 34 Removal Actions and a corrective measures study (CMS) for the two TCE plumes identified during the sanitary sewer investigation. Construction of landfill caps for the Combined Southeast Landfill (CSLF) Area and improvements on the North and Southfork Drainage Channel were completed. LTM of the groundwater associated with the CSLF continued.

Remediation of soil at the former pistol and rifle ranges was completed by using soil-washing technology. Processing of more than 20,000 tons of material from the ranges generated more than 61,000 pounds of recyclable lead.

Of the 481 sites, 421 have been designated for no further action. The installation forwarded closure documents recommending no further action for 23 of the remaining 60 sites.

The installation was also established as the Regional Operating Location and took over programs from Carswell AFB, Texas; England AFB, Louisiana; and Williams AFB, Arizona. Because of fast-track closure of environmental sites at the installation, the

reuse authority remains on schedule to open the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in May 1999.

Some activities scheduled for completion in FY98 were delayed because of inclement weather and because of TNRCC review of projects scheduled for no further action.

Plan of Action

- Complete remaining RAs
- Install and begin operation of the remediation system for the TCE plume (a compliance site) that has migrated off base
- Continue LTM of landfills and TCE plumes
- Continue to coordinate with the City of Austin, the TNRCC, and EPA to close the remaining sites

SITES ACHIEVING RIP OR RC PER FISCAL YEAR

